ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME

The WALK OF FAME, initiated in conjuction with Ellendale's 125th celebration, honors generations of excellence that continue to distinguish the people of Ellendale. By recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of a few, the WALK OF FAME highlights well-lived but less-known lives of many, even as it inspires young people to follow their dreams. During each ALL SCHOOL REUNION a new group of successful individuals whose lives were shaped by their time in Ellendale will be added to the WALK OF FAME. We dedicate this WALK OF FAME to the people of Ellendale who helped make their success possible.

— PATRONS —

MDU Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Job Development Authority
Starion Financial

The Ellendale Foundation
BNC National Bank
Mertz Lumber

ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME MENTORS

The ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME was initiated in conjunction with the Ellendale 125th celebration in 2007. Its purpose is to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a few in order to highlight the contributions of the many local people to the success of current and former Ellendale residents.
We applaud the significant contributions of teachers, officials, ministers, professionals, mentors, friends, family and all the residents of the city in helping literally thousands of people become successful in their chosen careers and well-lived lives.

In 2012 we added a new category to the WALK OF FAME called "Mentors". It was decided that many individuals who did not grow up here or get their education in Ellendale were never the less influential to those who did. It is important to recognize those individuals also.

Ed N. Leiby who helped establish the city of Ellendale and Mina C. Onsrud the long time high school English, Latin and German teacher were the first two mentors to receive bronze stars in the Ellendale sidewalks and be inducted into the ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME.

JOHN DUANE CRABTREE

2007 ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME

INDUCTED
ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME
2007

John Duane (J.D.) Crabtree graduated from Ellendale High School in 1936, attended Ellendale College, graduating with a B.S. Degree and served in the U.S. Navy Air Corp during WWII serving in the South Pacific. J.D. joined his father in his insurance business, becoming the third generation Crabtree in that business, buying the business in 1950. He was involved in many community committees, Boy Scout leader, served on the Hospital Board, was influential in making Pheasant Lake a reality, supporter of the college in Ellendale and worked on relocating Trinity Bible College to Ellendale. He was a significant force in the building of the Ellendale nursing home facility. He loved hunting, fishing, golfing, gardening and piloting his own plane. He was instrumental in promoting and obtaining funding for the grass greens at the Ellendale golf course. J.D. served three terms in the North Dakota House of Representatives.

2007

ELLENDALE

WALK OF FAME

JAMES BENJAMIN GRAHAM

INDUCTED
ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME
2007

James Benjamin (Benny) Graham graduated from Ellendale High School in 1943. His grandparents on both sides were Dakota Territory pioneers. He served in the U.S. Air Corp during WWII. He graduated from the University of North Dakota and received his law degree in 1951. Benny began practicing law in Ellendale with his father in 1951. He was elected Dickey County States Attorney in 1954 and held that position until 1970. He was city attorney and served as Judge of the Dickey County Justice Court. Benny was a community leader, giving endlessly of his time, talents and energies, serving on committees, city council and a member of the fire department. He led the fight to keep the college in Ellendale open and was instrumental in bringing Trinity Bible College to Ellendale. He enjoyed the outdoors and enthusiastically participated in many outdoor activities. Benny loved Ellendale and was always there to lend a hand to the community and all who knew him.

DEBRA MOONEY

INDUCTED
ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME
2007

Debra Mooney Van Zandt, daughter of Henry and Isabel Vick, graduated from Ellendale High School in 1964. She attended college in Ellendale and holds a B.A. from Auburn University, and an M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Minnesota. She has an extensive career starring in regional theatre, off-Broadway, Broadway, television and films. Some of her many credits are - Broadway: *Talley's Folly, The Odd Couple, The Price, Getting and Spending.* Television: *Everybody Loves Raymond, Roseanne, Seinfeld, Murphy Brown, Davis Rules, Kirk, The Practice, Boston Legal.* TV movies: *Breathing Lessons* with James Garner and Joanne Woodward, *The Mermaid Chair* with Kim Basinger. Notable favorites include the film *Domestic Disturbance* with John Travolta, Linda Loman opposite Dustin Hoffman in *Death of a Salesman* on Broadway, and Edna Harper in TV's hit show *Everwood.* She enjoyed working with authors such as Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Jules Feiffer, A.R. Gurney, Greg Berlanti, and Sue Monk Kidd. Writing in the New York Times, Tennessee Williams declared her his favorite Blanche Dubois in his play *A Streetcar Named Desire.*

2007

ELLENDALE

WALK OF FAME

PALMER RETZLAFF

INDUCTED
ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME
2007

Palmer (Pete) Retzlaff is considered one of the great all time athletes in both North and South Dakota. He graduated from Ellendale High School in 1949 where he excelled in track and football and attended Ellendale College before transferring to South Dakota State University. At SDSU he starred in track and football and was one of the most honored athletes in the history of the school. He holds rushing records, was named to the Little All American Football Team and set records in the shot put and discus. He played professional football in the NFL eleven years, all with the Philadelphia Eagles. He was selected to All-Pro Teams five times, set Eagle records in pass receiving, named NFL's Player of the Year and had his uniform number retired. Palmer served as President of the NFL players' Association and went on to become Eagles General Manager. He was named to both the North Dakota and South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame. He is well known in the Pennsylvania area for his business, community and charitable activities.

Ellendale Walk of Fame

MALCOLM D. GODDARD

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2012

Malcolm D. Goddard, born and raised in Ellendale, graduated from Ellendale High School in 1946 and earned a journalism degree from the University of North Dakota in 1950, the first student to graduate from UND with a straight "A" average. He began editing the Dickey County Leader in 1951 and took over as publisher in 1958, becoming the third generation publisher of the paper following his grandfather and his father. Malcolm was the paper; gathering and writing the news, taking and developing pictures, laying out the paper and operating the press. His widely-read column, "Pot Shots" was a favorite. Goddard won many awards as publisher of the Dickey County Leader, including "one of the top 50 newspapers in the United States".

He was a perfectionist with a sense of humor, a gifted musician, involved in Ellendale. He had the rare quality of being young but mature, a collegian with a purpose and dedication. His untimely accidental death came while he was doing his job, taking pictures of the city Christmas lights from high above Main Street.

Ellendale Walk of Fame

PATRICIA WALLACE INGRAHAM

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2012

Patricia Wallace Ingraham "the granddaughter of homesteaders in the Dakota Territory" graduated from Ellendale High School in 1960. She then received her B.A. degree from Macalester College, a master's degree from Michigan State University and her PhD from Binghamton University in New York. Pat is a leading academic in her fields of Political Science and Public Administration. She has received special recognition and top awards from each discipline. Pat has written or edited fourteen books and is the author of over 100 academic articles.

Pat is now the Founding Dean of the College of Public Affairs at Binghamton University. She was formerly a Distinguished Professor of Public Administration and Political Science at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. She was the first woman in the University's history to receive the Distinguished Professor title and distinction. She is also an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and has advised officials at federal, state and local levels of government. She received an Honorary PhD from the University of North Dakota in 1996.

Ellendale Walk of Fame

RUSSELL WENKSTERN

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2012

Russell Wenkstern graduated from Ellendale High School and Ellendale Normal & Industrial College. He began his career as an educator at the high school level. In 1944 he switched careers and became involved in manufacturing in Mound, MN. In 1952 he joined Mound Metalcraft, which would later change its name to Tonka Toys, as production manager and as a member of the board of directors. Wenkstern was named President & CEO of Tonka Toys in 1961. Wenkstern was involved in the design of many of Tonka's products, most notably the Mighty Dump Truck. When Wenkstern started at the company, annual sales were $400,000. At the time of his retirement sales exceeded $80 million. As head of Tonka Toys he brought the company to worldwide prominence. He turned Tonka into the largest volume manufacturer of vehicles of any type in the world, and insisted that Tonka trucks be the safest and most durable toys of their time, a tradition that continues today. He was known within the company as Mr. Tonka. In 1998 Mr. Wenkstern was inducted into the Toy Industry Hall of Fame an organization that includes Walt Disney, George Lucas and Charles Lazarus.

Ellendale Walk of Fame

JOHN WHEELIHAN

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2012

John Wheelihan was a fighter/bomber pilot of the "Greatest Generation" and a farmer/businessman, whose life has been one of dedication and commitment to his family, county, state, country and betterment of the Ellendale community. John is a humanitarian, who has given endlessly to helping others less fortunate, quietly and discreetly.

A 1935 graduate of Ellendale High School and UND in 1940, he was flying fighter planes before the USA entered WWII. He saw action in the Southern Atlantic and European Theaters, ultimately retiring as a Major in 1964 from the Air Force Reserve. He began farming in 1946, married, had three sons, owned and operated several businesses and served as the Postmaster of Ellendale 1964-1980.

A supporter of the Ellendale community, John is active in Masons, American Legion VFW and served on the boards of the Southeastern ND Water Association, Farmers Union Co-op, Ellendale Opera House and North Dakota's Aeronautics Commission.

Ellendale Walk of Fame

MENTOR
ED N. LEIBY

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME
2012

Originally from Pennsylvania, Ed N. Leiby came to Ellendale as an agent for the Milwaukee Railroad and was one of Ellendale's first residents in 1882. He became Dickey County's first Auditor in 1885 and in 1889 he purchased a drug store on Main Street. Leiby became a pharmacist without ever attending pharmacy school. Leiby Drug would be a fixture in the community for the next 71 years. Using his experience as a telegraph operator with the railroad, Leiby started the Dakota Central Telephone Company later sold to what would become Northwest Bell. He also served as President of the Ellendale Gas Company, a locally built plant which furnished heat and light to the city before electricity. He was President of the Ellendale Mill which made flour that was shipped all over the world. Leiby was General Manager of the Opera House for over 25 years. Ed N. Leiby also served as Mayor of Ellendale for four years.

Ellendale Walk of Fame

MENTOR
MINA C. ONSRUD

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME
2012

Mina C. Onsrud was born near Stoughton, Wisconsin. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Wisconsin and taught for twelve years at various schools before coming to Ellendale in 1922. Miss Onsrud was an exceptional educator at Ellendale High School (EHS) for forty years.

Miss Onsrud taught English, French, and German and was EHS Principal from 1922 until 1954. During her tenure at EHS, she also coached drama, speech and served as librarian. She was adviser for the school newspaper, the junior class, and the junior-senior prom. Miss Onsrud held herself to high standards and ideals and instilled the same in her students. For four decades, EHS students benefited from her unselfish devotion to the education of youth.

Mina C. Onsrud's legacy is unique. Considered legendary by her students, she is honored for her role in their education - an education which led them to succeed and, often, to excel. To quote the poet William Butler Yeats, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

Ellendale Walk of Fame

MENTOR

DR. ROY LYNDE

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2017

Roy Lynde (1874-1962) began his practice in Ellendale in 1905, upon graduating from the University of Minnesota Medical School. Exactly fifty years later Local boosters organized a "Doc Lynde Day" replete with a large parade and marching band, a double-header baseball game, and a ceremony dedicating "The Dr. Roy Lynde Memorial Athletic Field." He was the subject of countless written tributes including two articles in national publications.

He is reputed to have delivered somewhere near 3,000 babies in his fifty-plus years of service. On call at all hours, Doc responded to countless emergencies, sometimes braving dangerous blizzards or dust storms to make his way to the bedsides of patients.

He enjoyed taking pictures and giving them away. He was an avid sports fan. For away games, he packed his car with young passengers. When more room was needed, he loaned students new cars from the dealership. Doc had boundless faith in the younger generation. He often took youngsters along on his house call rounds. Some of these followed Doc's lead and became physicians themselves.

Helen Graham Rezatto's outstanding *Reader's Digest* Article "The Most Unforgettable Character I've Met," (April 1961) provided the most eloquent memorial to Ellendale's best-loved physician. He had, she insisted, made the community better and made its people better. "I look at him," she wrote, "and think of all the sick people he's held in his arms, the bills he's forgotten, the jokes he's laughed at, the kids he's spoiled, the kind deeds he's hidden. And I think of the richness he's brought to our town."

DR. FLOYD "FRITZ" MATTHEIS

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2017

Dr. Floyd E. Mattheis, a 1949 graduate of Ellendale High School, has had an illustrious career in education culminating with his position as Chairman of the Department of Science Education, at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

Dr. Mattheis was born on a farm northeast of Ellendale, North Dakota on December 21, 1931. He was the youngest of six children born to John and Katherine Ammon Mattheis who were German immigrants from Russia. Floyd graduated from high school in 1949. That fall he enrolled at the State Normal and Industrial College (NI) in Ellendale and received a B.S in Ed. in August 1952. He served in the U.S. Army and then the inactive reserves. He began his teaching career in the fall of 1954 as a science and mathematics teacher at Granite Falls High School in Minnesota.

He received a Doctor of Education degree at UNC in 1962. In 1963 he was promoted to Associate Professor of Science Education at East Carolina University and in 1966 was promoted to Professor of Science Education and also became Chairman of the Department of Science Education for 19 years (1966-1985). In 1980 Dr. Mattheis received NCSTA's first Science Educator of the Year award. In 1979 he was invited to Japan by the Sony Foundation for Science Education to visit schools and speak to teachers and students throughout Japan. In 1984 he directed a cooperative research project with science educators from Japan and the US.

Dr. Mattheis has been on various National Science Teachers Association committees during the past forty years. He served as Chair of the Shell award committee for twelve years. In 1991 Dr. Mattheis received the Distinguished Service to Science Education Award from NSTA and in 1996 received NSTA's highest award – The Robert Carleton Award.

RICHARD "DICK" J. SCHONBERGER

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2017

Richard graduated from Ellendale High School in 1955 and from University of North Dakota in 1961. He is a world renown authority on manufacturing as well as an independent researcher, author and speaker serving industrial, service and academic organizations worldwide. He is the author of more than 200 articles and a dozen books, largely on manufacturing management.

Dick was a civilian industrial engineer for eight years (Federal Government) followed by 14 years as a professor in management information systems and operations management, University of Nebraska, during which he was designated as George Cook Distinguished (chaired) Professor and later as affiliate professor, University of Washington.

His 1982 book, *Japanese Manufacturing Techniques*, propelled Dick into global travel to conduct seminars, while still teaching. In 1985 he left the university in order to devote full time to his research, publishing, and speaking. He continues in that capacity today while living with family in Bellevue, Washington.

He has served on editorial boards of *Benchmarking, Cost Management, Target, the Value Chain Management Conference* (Austria), and is on the executive advisory board of the Shingo Prize. He is director of the "Global Leanness Studies" and the "World Class by Principles" international benchmarking.

Ellendale Walk of Fame

WILLIAM "BILL" RANDALL

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2017

William (Bill) Caldwell Randall, son of Floyd E. and Harriet Caldwell Randall, grandson of Marcellus E. and Minnie Lord Randall and William Alexander and Ida Mae Ingersoll Caldwell, early settlers and community leaders of Ellendale and Monango, respectively, grew up in Ellendale and graduated from Ellendale HS in 1944.

Bill was a Merchant Marine during WWII and a member of the American Legion and the Methodist church. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #13 and is the best known for his work with the Ellendale Ambulance and Fire Departments. He was a charter member and the first squad leader of the Ellendale Community Ambulance Service. He was a member of the Fire Department for 37 years, President of the Fire Department for 16 years and Chief for 9 years. He attended many state sponsored fire schools. He frequently did presentations for grade school students which often culminated with a ride on the fire truck.

He went to work in his Family store (Randall's Grocery) while attending college at the "N-I". In 1960 he became the manager and in 1965 purchased the store from family stockholders. He served in various capacities on the Ellendale Civic Association. He was on the board of both the Maud Evans Saddle Club and the Town & Country Saddle Club. He was a board member of the ND Food Retailers and on their legislative committee. He is a life time member of the North Dakota Fire Chief's Association. Bill was a charter member of the Ellendale Historical Society. Bill and his wife Mary Lee retired to Texas in 1983.

BENJAMIN BRUNS CRABTREE

INDUCTED ELLENDALE WALK OF FAME 2017

Benjamin Bruns Crabtree was born May 17, 1942, to Donald and Edna Bruns Crabtree. During high school, he participated in track, band, chorus, yearbook staff, and of course, basketball. In 1960 Dell Publishing listed him among the best high school basketball players in the country. He graduated first in his class from Ellendale High School and was accepted at Harvard.

After two years at Harvard, he transferred to the University of North Dakota where he majored in history and economics. He also played guitar in the band, The Churchkeys. It was at UND that Ben met his wife-to-be, Susan Larson of Rugby, and they were married July 18, 1965.

Ben's career in investment analysis and research started in Minneapolis and spanned nearly 50 years. After starting in the fiduciary money management business for US Bank predecessor, First Bank System, he later joined the Minneapolis-based regional brokerage firm Dain Bosworth as a research analyst and was there for over 20 years. His keen insights and clear writing style kept clients informed on business trends in several industries and in particular, regional and community banking in the upper Midwest. In 1994, the American Banker newspaper named him the Community Banking Analyst of the Year. After the acquisition of Dain Bosworth, Ben enjoyed similar investment analyst roles with several other companies.

Ben was very active in Edina Community Lutheran church for over 30 years, where he loved playing guitar during worship services. His family was the most important part of his life-- Wife Sue and his son's, Mike, Jon and Pete--and later their expanded family--Mike and Charlotte and granddaughters Jane and Sally, Jon and Krisha and grandson Logan, Pete and Susie and grandson Theo. Ben loved his role as Grandpa!